(c) to (e) Aspartame is recognized as safe as per safety evaluation by joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives with acceptable daily intake of 0-40 mg per kg body weight.

Retirement age of Government doctors

596. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to raise the retirement age of Government doctors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the exodus of medical specialists from various Government Hospitals to private hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of specialists doctors who have left Government hospital to join private hospitals;

(e) whether Government are contemplating special pay-package for specialists doctors; and

(f) if so, the details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The retirement age of Government doctors was raised from 58 years to 60 years in 1998. The information available in the Ministry does not indicate that specialists of Central Health Service are leaving to join private hospitals in significant numbers. During the last five years 5.47% of the total strength of specialists of Central Health Service have left the service. No indications have been given by such doctors about their joining private hospitals. The pay and allowances including Non Practicing Allowance of Central Health Service officers have been increased significantly as per the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission.

Single Window System for clearing the new drug applications

597. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: